

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, January 12, 2010

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Illegal U-turns

Concern local RCMP

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For landfill hearing

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New Year's
newcomer

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New Deal adds up for street funds

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Five years of saving up allocations under the joint provincial/federal New Deal program has added up to the \$213,262 grant Elk Point town council will put toward this year's upgrade of the portion of 50 Avenue west of 51 Street. Town manager Myron Goyan told council at their first meeting of 2010 last Thursday that the grant has now been received.

The long-awaited funding comes from a program started in 2005 to assist municipalities with their infrastructure needs and is based on population figures. The federal government supports the program by allocating a portion of the federal gas tax to Alberta municipalities.

A much-larger-than-expected grant received under Alberta Transportation's infrastructure program put another \$844,543 toward the project, which also includes replacing aging utility lines under the avenue.

Recycling in town's hands

Hopes for a recycling pilot project in Elk Point were dashed when Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich told council that Evergreen Regional Waste has no funding available for the project at this time.

Council agreed with Mayor Parrish Tung that a recycling facility would be "one way to improve our community," and voted to ask for proposals from recycling contractors with a view to setting up their own.

Education support

Council agreed to once again support St. Paul Education Regional Division's family school liaison worker program with a \$10,000 donation, as this is seen as a much needed and worthwhile program.

Sponsorship program

Council rescinded their original motion regarding the municipal sponsorship program and replaced it with a resolution that also designated the water spray park as their chosen project, with the educational components of the EcoCentre as their second priority.



Vicki Brooker photo

Traditional ice rivalry continues

Elk Point Bantam Avalanche took a three-goal lead in the first half of Friday night's battle against the St. Paul Canadiens, which spurred on their traditional rivals to even the score in the third period of the fast-paced and exciting game, with numerous fans on hand to cheer on both teams as they ended in a three-all tie.

Chamber gearing up for members, visitors

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce headed into the New Year with good attendance at their first meeting after a month-long holiday break. Plans for the 2010 membership drive are well underway, with treasurer Debra McQuinn distributing copies of member information she has compiled to advise members and potential members regarding the benefits of membership, in an effort to boost meeting attendance.

The chamber agreed that the annual meeting would take the place of the second meeting in February again this year, on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The EcoCentre elevator has now arrived and is being installed, paving the way for installation of flooring and

other finishing work on the structure.

Bob Bezpalko reported that the solar panel structure has been reinforced and that the panels are now tracking the sun's position. They are ready to produce power and will be hooked into the centre as soon as the appropriate meters are installed. A new base plate is being made for the wind turbine, and the necessary cold-weather adaptation parts for the turbine are also on their way, so the turbine "could be up next week," Bezpalko said. Both the turbine and the solar array will feed data to the chamber's computer system, once that is up and running, to track the amount of power produced by the alternate energy sources.

Possible phone numbers for the chamber, in case a choice is available, were also discussed, as was the job description for staff members.

The Elk Point Trail Riders Snowmobile Club has asked the chamber to reconsider their plans to prohibit vehicle traffic east of the EcoCentre. They would like to keep the present access to their cabin and the adjacent picnic area open for visitors. Everyone agreed that the Trail Riders should be involved with planning the area's layout.

Northern Lights Library System director Mircea Panciuk asked if the chamber would consider coordinating the grand opening for the Eco Centre with that of the NLLS headquarters, which is currently undergoing extensive renovations, and of the new fire hall, which is a joint project of the town and county. The date for this event would depend on the availability of provincial government officials, possibly even Premier Ed Stelmach, and further discussion will take place once potential dates are determined.

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ELK POINT REALTY SHOWCASE

NEW LISTING



MODERN UPDATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING. This home is located on a large 60' X 140' lot close to the schools. Upgrades include painting, golden cherry hardwood flooring on main floor, new laminate flooring in the basement, new light fixtures, new bathroom fixtures in both bathrooms, new shingles, new interior doors and baseboards and the list goes on. The kitchen cabinets, appliances and the washer & dryer are 3 years old. The property also includes a large single car garage and a landscaped, fenced back yard. MLS # 0015032386 **\$239,000**

NEW HOME - MODERN DESIGN



NEW HOME. Modern design is highlighted with top quality cabinets and counter tops in the kitchen and frosted glass railing separating the stairway from the livingroom. The property also includes a 14' X 14' deck, a finished driveway and finished basement with styrofoam block construction. MLS # 0011114196 **\$317,000**

RESIDENTIAL



WELL BUILT HOME. Located in a quiet area of Elk Point. Upgrades include shingles, hot water tank, washer, fridge and stove. The home has 4 bedrooms and a partially finished basement. MLS # 0021113949 **\$218,500**

PRICED TO SELL



COUNTRY LIVING. This home and 5 acre parcel is located in the middle of the oil patch with plenty of room to add a shop. The home features two bedrooms, an open basement and a large deck. There are also several outbuildings. Also available an adjoining five acre parcel for \$50,000. MLS # CP05140904 **\$125,000**

RANCHERS DELIGHT



Leave the world behind and enter your dream property. Uniquely designed 3 bedroom home with walk out basement. Fireplaces located in the dining room, living room and rec room. Property features a guest house (Potential for revenue), private tennis court, groomed walking/ski trails, barn, and oil revenue. Fridge, stove, washer and dryer and window coverings included. MLS # 0022494207 **\$489,900**



FARM & HOME FOR SALE. Quarter section of land and 1485 sq ft home with double attached garage. Property is fenced and cross fenced. 100 acres is open with hay and pasture. Includes corrals, waterers and cattle shelter. There are also grain bins, a quonset, machine shed, barn and summer kitchen. The large beautiful yard is well groomed and includes too many fruit trees to mention. This is truly living in your own park. MLS # 0023724850 **\$599,000**

FARMLAND



QUARTER SECTION of land in the Lindbergh area. This property has a dugout, 135 acres are cultivated and it is fenced and cross fenced. There is oil lease revenue on the property. There is also some gravel. MLS # 0023759178 **\$199,900**

COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL



AFFORDABLE Prime Building Site - C1 commercial. Located just off hi-way 41 and is available for immediate construction. Combined frontage is 100' X 105'. Great opportunity to build a revenue generating property. MLS # 0019451856 **\$38,000**



LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS? Excellent family business opportunity. Busy Service Station, Liquor Store and Convenience Store in the Lindbergh valley. The Lindbergh Post Office is also located in the store. The two service bays offer an excellent opportunity for an automotive repair business. MLS # 0027426204 **\$149,000**

GREAT ACCESSIBILITY



INDUSTRIAL SHOP IN ELK POINT. This 50' X 108' (5400 sq. ft.) shop includes 3 phase power, offices, staff room, storage rooms and a large reception area. The property consists of .68 acres of compacted and gravelled parking and storage space. The property is adjacent to a 5200 sq ft shop on 1.03 acres that can be purchased as a package. MLS # 0012077996 **\$395,000**



INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY. Includes a 40' x 130' (5200 sq ft) shop located on 1.03 acres in the Elk Point Industrial Park. The building has 14' X 16' doors on each end. There is 3 phase power, a concrete floor with drain and sump and equipment required to operate as a wash bay. The parking and storage area is compacted and gravelled. The property is adjacent to a 5400 sq ft shop with offices on a .68 acre lot that is also available. MLS # 0012077970 **\$380,000**

FORECLOSURES



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. 46 - 1, 2 & 3 bedroom Condos. Over 50% rented at the present time. Several units may be furnished and have been recently renovated. Rental rates range from \$700 to \$1300 per month. MLS # 00324164899 **\$2,400,000**



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Charges in domestic violence

By Cst. JOHN SPAANS

Elk Point RCMP Detachment

On Dec. 30 at 8 p.m., Elk Point RCMP were dispatched to a domestic violence incident in Fishing Lake. The female victim called the RCMP to advise that her common law husband was pushing her around. Members attended the location and found the male suspect walking on the street. The male was arrested and spoken to. Investigation showed both that both parties engaged in a heated argument and began pushing one another. Both parties were deemed to be responsible for the assault and both were charged. The male and female have been released from custody and placed on strict conditions.

Disturbance

During the night of Dec. 31 and into the morning of Jan. 1, 2010, Elk Point RCMP received multiple complaints of a male and female causing trouble at various houses in Frog Lake. At approximately 3 a.m., the couple was finally tracked down and placed under arrest for mischief. The male went willingly but the female began to fight. The 26-year-old female kicked an officer in the chest then resisted arrest. After a short struggle, the female was subdued and placed in a police vehicle. During the struggle, the female suffered a minor injury to her arm and was treated by EMS. The Frog Lake female has been charged with resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. Alcohol was a factor in the occurrence.

24-Hour suspensions, traffic violations

On New Year's Eve, Elk Point RCMP issued two 24-hour suspensions to drivers who had been drinking prior to driving. The males had their vehicles towed and were also issued provincial violation tickets. Two drivers were also found to be driving uninsured motor vehicles. Their vehicles were towed and they were issued tickets with court dates in St. Paul Provincial Court.

cles were towed and they were issued tickets with court dates in St. Paul Provincial Court.

Suspected impaired driver

Early in the morning of New Year's Day, Elk Point RCMP received a complaint of an impaired driver leaving the Empress Lounge in Elk Point. The complaint was anonymous but members were suspicious of the validity of the complaint considering the Empress Lounge was closed during the night. Shortly after the complaint was received, the suspect driver was located and spoken to. He was 100 per cent sober and it is believed the anonymous complainant called police because of a dispute earlier in the night. Charges were not laid and the subject of the complaint was free to leave.

Driving complaints

Elk Point RCMP have received numerous complaints from concerned citizens regarding the parking and driving habits of people at the Elk Point Post Office. The parking at the post office is angle parking and cannot be accessed from the northbound lane. Should a vehicle park in an angle parking stall from the northbound lane, an improper U-turn violation ticket could be issued. Any questions or concerns regarding this matter can be brought to the attention of the Elk Point RCMP.

Failure to comply

Later in the morning of Jan. 1, Elk Point RCMP were called to a residence in Frog Lake where a male was causing problems and trying to fight people. When members arrived, the male was located passed out on a bedroom floor. The 24-year-old Frog Lake male was placed under arrest for breaching conditions of probation. During the arrest, an unloaded firearm was located where the male had been passed out. The firearm was seized

after an owner could not be determined.

Possession of stolen property

At midnight on Jan. 2, Elk Point RCMP were patrolling Fishing Lake in search of a suspicious vehicle when a traffic stop was attempted with a pickup truck. The pickup truck drove into a ditch and the occupants who had been sitting in the front of the vehicle ran into the woods. Fortunately, the individuals who ran forgot to let three individuals out of the back seat. The three individuals, two females and one male, were arrested for possession of stolen property. The vehicle had been stolen from an oilfield company in Fishing Lake. After interviewing the three individuals, the suspects who ran away were identified. In all, two adult males, one adult female and two female youths were charged with possession of property obtained by crime. The suspects hail from Frog Lake and Fishing Lake.

Search warrant

On Jan 2, Elk Point RCMP conducted a search warrant at a residence in Frog Lake. During the search, a quantity of marijuana was seized. When members conducted the search, it was determined that the residence was not suitable for children to live in. The residence did not have proper plumbing, water supply, food or life essentials. Children's Services was brought in and the children were brought to an appropriate residence.

Noise complaint

On Jan 3 at 3 a.m., Elk Point RCMP responded to a noise complaint on 51 Ave. in Elk Point. The residence is well known to the local RCMP and has been the subject of complaint on multiple occasions in the past. Charges were not laid in this occurrence but the teenaged homeowner was warned that his immature behaviour will result in criminal charges should any further complaints be received.

Council

(Continued from Front Page)

Rural diversification

Approval was given for one person take a 15-week interactive on-line course through the Rural Diversification Initiative. Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko said he sees value for the community in taking the course.

Grand openings

The potential for a multi-facility grand opening of the new fire hall, the Eco Centre and the renovated Northern Lights Library System headquarters was discussed briefly, and will be back on council's agenda at a later date.

Calendar

Elk Point Minor Hockey has announced the cash calendar winners for the January draw.

The \$20 prizes went to Bernadette Pankiw, Isabel Myshaniuk, Mitch Brekko of Kitscoty, Jennifer Jenner of Lloydminster, Patricia Rybchinsky, Jay Duffee, Tyson and Kathryn Warawa of Dewberry, Asterio Cueva, Gordon Garrett, Mark Cusack of Edson, Tina Campbell, Tom May, Cody Faithful, Peggy Maas and Larry Lecopoy.

Sandra Wartkiw was the \$100 winner.



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Tie as good as it got for bantams

It's terrible when you think of it, but they say a tie is just like kissing your sister, and I know these guys don't want anything to do with that, yuck, especially when playing St. Paul.

The **Bantam Avalanche** had a three-goal lead going into the third period on Friday night against St. Paul, everything was hunky dory, as they say, until the boys started getting a little chippy and a little chirpy as well. Too many trips over to the sin bin cost them the two points. In fact if goalie Brayden "Mr. Scrooge" Vinge wasn't playing as well as he was, holding the fort, kicking out some great scoring chances especially in the final minute, the boys would have lost this one for sure. St. Paul scored early in the first minute of the third period on the power play, then gained some momentum; the next two goals were scored five on three, which is almost impossible to defend against. Michael "Bulldozer" Abraham, Jared "Snipes" McGilvery and "Dayton 500" Mercredi all scoring for the Avalanche, "Dan the man" Garrett and Matthew "Bruise Brother" Jenner assisting.

On Sunday the boys traveled to Saddle Lake and this time they learned a lesson from their mistakes, down by three goals going into the third period, they battled back and tied the game, only to lose a real heartbreaker in the last 30 seconds. It's tough to lose like that, this time they would have been more than happy with the tie. Brandon "the



doug
BASSETT
Review Sports

"Snake" Garrett, Mike "Bulldozer" Abraham and Andrew "Bruise Brother" Jenner scoring.

On Saturday morning all the grandparents, aunts, uncles and parents came out to watch the battle of the bumper cars, the last man standing, it's more fun to watch than a barrel of monkeys, the **Micro Novice Tornados**, our future falling stars, winning 12 to 7 over Mannville. Hat tricks for Jace Stafford, Liam Ludlage, and Keaton Hawryluk, Brandon Goertzen with two and an assist, Jaden Van Maarion buried one, Joey Cardinal and Jenna Poitras both helping out the cause with assists. And a big thumbs up to Dean "the Machine" Ockerman, who made some great stops in net showing off to the crowd.

Quit pulling "My Leg." Oh, right, that's Mallaig. Saturday afternoon the **Atom Avalanche** played really well and had a great battle going against Mallaig right to the bitter end, losing a tough one, Brodin "the Flying Bull" Ference scoring all three goals for the Avalanche. A super job between the pipes for goalie Colton Cardinal who kept the game close with the help of his friends, blue liners Sydney Letwin, Amy Harms, Taylor Pankiw and Chansie Botting. On Sunday the Atoms traveled to Vermilion, and lost another respectable game, "the Flying Bull" in on every goal on the score sheet, five goals and three assists, setting up two goals by Brian Bazian and one by the big winger Brody "the Big O" Odgaard.

Number 1 and Number 2 is just too boring for me, so from now on let's call them Thunder and Lightning, unless someone objects, of course and if they do, well, we will deal with it then.

Sunday at home, the **Novice 2** team (Lightning) played against a strong team from Kitscoty. Unfortunately we didn't get any goals in this one, but everyone on the team played to their potential and that's what really counts. Next week the Lightning meet another team from Kitscoty, Saturday here at home, come out and cheer them on.

Sunday on the road the **Novice 1** team (Thunder) was awesome in a well-matched game against St. Paul tying 7-all. Parker Allen was behind the mask for the start in this one, backstopping for the first two periods, Erin Duffee coming in for the third period, both of them doing a super job between the pipes. Hayden Ludlage with a hat trick, Dylan Ference finding the twine with two, the gritty grinder Angus McFarlane with one, and Darian Rybchynski scoring

his first goal ever.

After a two week break, our **Midget Girls Storm** had a very busy schedule, playing a late game in Viking on Friday night, then back home Saturday night against Bonnyville and then again at home Sunday night against Viking once more. In all three games, the girls played very hard, but even though they had many opportunities around the net they just couldn't capitalize on their chances. Team captain Tori "T-Rex" Becker got the lone goal against Bonnyville.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "If you're going to win the Stanley Cup, you've got to go top shelf." Last week's answer to: "I have four guys who don't understand a word I'm saying, ten guys who do but don't do a thing I tell them to do, and another four who aren't good enough to do what I tell them to do." - Tom McVie.

Do you have a sports scoop? Now you can email them to sportshound007@hotmail.com

Friends looking for leadership

By REVIEW STAFF

A new year is about to get underway for the Friends of Fort George and Buckingham House, and this year they hope to start the year off right with a full executive, something that has been lacking for a full year now.

With the retirement of their former treasurer at last year's annual meeting, the 2008 president Dennis Jasinsky opted to take on that challenging role, leaving the president's chair vacant. With no one willing to take on the presidency, vice president Vicki Brooker filled in on a temporary basis and has led the group through the year.

The Friends are holding their 2010 annual meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday evening at Elk Point Municipal Library and are hoping to come up with a full executive at that time.

New and potential members are welcome to attend the meeting and find out more about the Friends society.

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EDITORIAL

Get out and get active!

The weather has taken a turn for the better and we should all take advantage of it to put some of our New Year's resolutions to work.

We do have healthy activity alternatives indoors, from Wednesday night recreational curling and walking in the Elks Hall four mornings a week to yoga and a brand-new exercise class coming up, but when the temperature climbs closer to the zero mark, we're all given the alternative to get outside and enjoy some fresh air.

Take a walk down the Iron Horse Trail, dig out your snowshoes or cross-country skis, or try out our outdoor skating rink. The snowmobilers and ice fishing enthusiasts have ignored the weather and gone out in spite of the cold, but they, too, will enjoy it more now that the weather is warmer.

The cold didn't seem to affect our elementary school students, who have been enjoying the outdoors and their playgrounds in the small doses that recesses and noon hours allow, but they'll be even more eager to get out and have some fun when there's more than a narrow vision slit between scarf and parka hood through which to view the winter wonderland.

Get active and enjoy all that outdoors offers!

WAY BACK WHEN...

Permits, parking and passing of a legendary lady

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 12 IN...

1985

Statistics released by the Town of Elk Point at the end of December showed a 440 per cent increase in building permits over 1983, with 65 permits issued for projects valued at \$3,145,450. A New Year's morning joyride in a stolen ambulance sent the thief to jail with an 18-month sentence.

1990

Brenda and Patrick Friesen's 8 lb, 10 oz. son was the first baby of the new decade to be born at Elk Point Hospital, arriving on Jan. 3. Four parking areas for large trucks were designated by town council on a one-month trial basis, in response to business owners who said that such areas were needed.

1995

Lexie Laureen, daughter of Shelley Rowan and Arnold Watchmaker, arrived Jan. 2 to become Elk Point's New Year's baby. Ray Danyluk was selected as the first chairman for the new St. Paul Regional School Division.

2000

Elk Point chamber of commerce laid plans to host a one-day service excellence workshop for the staff of all types of business. Member of Parliament Leon Benoit visited the chamber and addressed issues including agriculture, health care and taxes.

2005

Alberta mourned the passing of Lt. Governor Lois Hole, who had charmed Elk Point audiences twice in the previous 17 months, as guest speaker at the 2003 F. G. Miller graduation and the 2004 Northern Lights Library System conference. Danielle Schnurer was named one of 100 Alberta Centennial ambassadors and was eager to help her community plan celebration events for Alberta's upcoming 100th birthday.

THE 3 STAGES OF CANADIAN POLITICAL ACTIVISM.



GUEST COLUMN

Recognition their reward

I found a story about Jack McConnell, MD, I would like to share.

He grew up in the hills of southwest Virginia in the United States as one of seven children of a Methodist minister and a stay-at-home mother. Their circumstances were very humble.

He recounted that during his childhood, every day as the family sat around the dinner table, his father would ask each one in turn, "And what did you do for someone today?" The children were determined to do a good turn every day so they could report to their father that they had helped someone.

Dr. McConnell calls this exercise his father's most valuable legacy, for that expectation and those words inspired him and his siblings to help others throughout their lives. As they grew and matured, their motivation for providing service changed to an inner desire to help others.

Besides Dr. McConnell's distinguished medical career - where he directed the development of the tuberculosis tine test, participated in the early development of the polio vaccine, supervised the development of Tylenol, and was instrumental in developing the magnetic resonance imaging procedure, or MRI - he created an organization he calls Volunteers in Medicine, which gives retired medical personnel a chance to volunteer at free clinics servicing the working uninsured.

Dr. McConnell said his leisure time since he retired has "evaporated into 60-hour weeks of unpaid work, but (his) energy level has increased and there is a satisfaction in (his) life that wasn't there before." He made this statement: "In one of those paradoxes of life, I have benefited more from



deanna
EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

Volunteers in Medicine than my patients have." There are now over 70 such clinics across the United States.

Even though the above is a unique story about someone in the United States, we have some good stories about some of our people in Elk Point.

For example, during the month of November, our local dentist gave volunteer dental service to some people in Niger, Africa. The community of Elk Point appreciates his giving valuable service to those people. Then we can't forget the Community Lions of Elk Point for all their volunteer service with Santa Anonymous. About 30 families from Elk Point and district received help before Christmas. Again, appreciation goes out to all who were involved. Christmas was made a little happier for these families.

Now to get closer to each one of us, I found a story about "burned biscuits".

The story begins: "When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work.

On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite! When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burnt biscuit never hurt any one!"

Yes, kindness shown by anyone of us needs recognition. It is appreciated!

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Canada



Elk Point newborn is St. Paul's first 2010 baby

By SHAUNA BURKE
Review Contributor

Jaison Maddock and Darci Abbott are the proud parents of 6 lbs., 12.5 oz Camryn Jack Maddock. He was born 3:02 p.m. on January 1, 2010 at St. Therese Hospital, which makes him this year's St. Paul New Year's baby.

This is the first baby for the young 22-year-old mother from Elk Point, Alberta.

"He gives life more meaning and purpose. I just can't stop smiling when I look at him because he is so cute," said Abbott. Then she adds with a laugh, "he has more hair than his dad."

Although she admitted that he does occasionally wake up during the night, Abbot is pleased to report that her baby sleeps very well.

"He is a very good baby," explained Abbott. "He only cries when he is hungry or wants something."

Camryn was not expected until Jan. 15, but when Darci woke up at 6:30 a.m. on

New Year's Day, her water broke. They headed off to the hospital in St. Paul right away. As hospital staff monitored the baby, they observed that the baby's heart rate slowed with each contraction. A decision was made to deliver the baby by cesarean section.

"It was really scary but I knew that it was for the good of the baby," Abbott said, adding that it turned out to be a very good decision because the umbilical cord was wrapped twice around the baby's neck. Both Camryn and his mom are now doing very well.

"He is really strong, even though he seems so tiny," said Abbott.

Abbott said that new obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Akindele and all the staff at the hospital were excellent. "I just want to thank all the staff for everything they did for us," she said.

She said that after the baby was born, the nurse informed her that he was the first baby of the New Year.



Vicki Brooker photo

Proud new mom Darci Abbott shows off New Year's baby son Camryn Jack Maddock, born Jan. 1, 2010 in St. Paul's St. Therese Hospital.

Parties get set for landfill hearing

By JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Contributor

Those participating in the upcoming Jan. 18 and 19 hearing into the approval of the expansion of the Lafond landfill have now filed their submissions and are waiting for their chance to air their arguments to gain some closure on the long-standing issue.

On Jan. 17 2008, at a public meeting, Lafond residents questioned why Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission was seeking reclassification of the landfill to accept more than

10,000 tonnes of solid waste per year, which would allow the acceptance of more waste from outside the commission boundaries.

Fast-forward two years and the issue is coming to a head, with the Environmental Appeals Board holding a hearing to look at Alberta Environment's approval of the reclassification, in response to appeals filed by local residents.

"We're not just coming there as a bunch of pissed off landowners," said appellant Dr. Amil Shapka. He added that the hydrogeolo-

gist he hired to look into the operations of the landfill has questions on the site of the landfill and its operations, with the possibility of groundwater contamination topping the list of concerns.

"We've said . . . the original (site) of that facility was flawed. That's a really, really horrible place to put a landfill," said Shapka. Fellow concerned County of St. Paul resident Robert Tomlinson has been granted intervenor status at the hearing, and will put forth his concerns regarding the construction of the site.

(Continued on Page 8)

New Year is renewal time for library cards

By DAPHNE SCHNURER
Librarian

It's the beginning of the New Year and time to think about library card renewals.

It's also a great time to ask about our many online services available to members in good standing from the comfort of their own homes or on our public computers, including ordering your own books from libraries across Alberta, downloading audio books and e-books accessing online data bases. A wealth of information is at your fingertips with a simple free library card. We would be happy to show you how to access these features.

If you have misplaced your library card, let our staff know and we will issue you a new one.

Remember, there is no charge for County of St. Paul or town of Elk Point residents. If you are not already a member, bring your identification, and proof of residency, such as a phone bill or water bill. If you need to renew your card, bring it in for new stickers.

Dates to circle

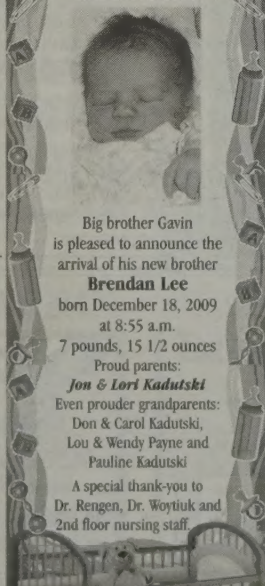
Yesterday we started our new series of knitting, cro-

chet and other handicraft sessions. You're welcome to bring any project you're working on to these 1 p.m. sessions, with the next one slated for Monday, Jan. 25.

Our first Seniors' Tea of 2010 is on Wednesday, Jan 13 at 2 p.m. and everyone is welcome to join us for fantastic refreshments and wonderful conversation.

BIRTH

KADUTSKI



Our after-school kids' program resumes for the new year on Wednesday, Jan. 20 and will go on the third Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. There is no

THANK YOU SCHUHMACHER

The family of Alvina Schuhmacher would like to thank all the family, friends and neighbors for all of the phone calls, food, cards, and flowers we received during her illness and passing. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Chu of the Cross Cancer Institute, Dr. Oyebo, Dr. Ramful and the staff of the Elk Point Hospital and Palliative Care for taking great care of mom with such kindness, dignity and respect, we appreciate all you did for her. Thank you to Father John, we are grateful for all the prayers, comforting words and visits to the house and the hospital over these past few months. Thank you to the Royal Purple Ladies and St. Vladimir Church family and everyone who contributed to making the service so special and to all who made donations in memory of mom. The kindness, generosity, love and support shown to our family is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Royal Purple Ladies for preparing and serving lunch at the prayer service and funeral.

We would especially like to thank John & Caroline Yewchin and staff of Yewchin's Funeral Home for their compassion and guidance.

The Schuhmacher Family

cost for the program and everyone is welcome to enjoy this monthly hour of crafts and stories.

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Métis hunting rights still on trial

By JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Contributor

The resolution to the issue of Métis' hunting rights is still up in the air, with closing arguments for a trial that will determine the extent of these rights not expected to happen until May, a full year after the trial first began.

During the next week, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) will be calling on its expert and community witnesses, such as historians and academics, to testify about the Métis people's connections to the practice of hunting and trapping, all across Alberta.

"I think it's all the bigger picture to bring to the courts the history of the Métis people," said Karen Collins, president of local Region 2 of the MNA.

In 2003, the Supreme Court ruling known as the Powley decision recognized Métis' right to hunt. Recognizing the Supreme Court ruling, the Albertan government allowed Métis to hunt for food anywhere in Alberta on provincial Crown

land with the permission of the landowners. However, this was only recognized as an interim agreement, and negotiations between the Métis Nation of Alberta and the government failed to result in a more permanent agreement.

Instead, in 2007, the government decided to implement a policy that allowed Métis to hunt within a 160-kilometre radius of eight northern Métis settlements and 17 northern communities. The new policy prevents Métis from hunting in south and central Alberta.

Those who are Métis and who can prove they are Métis should be able to hunt, trap and fish from "corner to corner to corner" of Alberta just as they have always done, says Collins. "We're everywhere and we have traditionally hunted everywhere in the province."

"We believe we will win. We believe there is no doubt about it," said Audrey Poitras, president of the MNA, of the court case. In her view, there was no

reason for the interim harvesting agreement to have been cancelled, which prompted the MNA to launch litigation. "It's a total waste of time and money on everyone's part. We should have never been in court."

Meanwhile, the government will also be presenting its expert witness to rebut the MNA's position. Eoin Kenny, spokesperson for Aboriginal Relations, explains that the interim harvesting agreement was cancelled because it was deemed "unenforceable." The government position is that Métis people can not simply be a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta in order to hunt, but that they must show they have an ancestral connection to the historic Métis community and a tradition of harvesting in the area, as well as being a part of the contemporary Métis community.

Both sides will file written arguments later in the spring and will return to court on May 11 and 12 to present their closing arguments.

Northern communities feel dissatisfied - survey

By SHAUNA BURKE
Review Contributor

Rural Albertans in the province's northern communities feel they are at a disadvantage in the areas of community capacity and access to education and health care, according to a survey released by Rural Alberta's Development Fund in December, 2009. Rural Alberta, however scores significantly higher than Edmonton in the area of quality of life.

"I found it very interesting from the perspective that it underscores and reinforces what we already see," said Paul Pelletier, general manager for Community Futures, St. Paul - Smokey Lake Region.

It makes sense that rural Albertans would score higher on quality of life because they are often closer to family, which improves interpersonal relationships and promotes a sense of well-being, explained Pelletier. The emotional well-being section of the survey includes eight domains: emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, material well-being, personal

development, physical well-being, rights, self-determination, and social inclusion.

"That is only natural in rural Alberta because of the knowing your neighbor syndrome and that is what makes rural Alberta attractive to live in," said Pelletier.

The survey indicates that rural Alberta scored lower in community capacity than small urban or large urban Alberta. Pelletier further explained that community capacity is where an increased number of people are involved in decision-making.

"That is something we have to work quite strongly on in Rural Alberta. There is not a lot of consultations with in the community. Town council does their thing and the public stays out of it," explained Pelletier. "This is something that has to change. The more inclusively you have in a community, the stronger the community is, because it reinforces that sense of community. It takes people in the community to roll up their sleeves and take an active role."

Survey respondents in northern Alberta reported less satisfaction with access to quality health services in their communities than respondents elsewhere. Pelletier pointed out that this rural area scores higher in the number of obese people and the number of occasional smokers. "So there is a health issue that is more pronounced than the larger centers," said Pelletier.

The one part of the survey that Pelletier felt was unexpected is that respondents in rural Alberta reported less satisfaction with the availability of education and training opportunities in their communities than respondents in small urban or large urban Alberta.

"I know from working on the ground, that this is improving with programs at local colleges," said Pelletier. "Overall, this is a very good survey but for me it basically reinforces a lot of the information we already knew."

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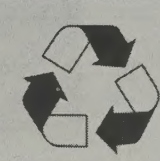
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Parties get set for landfill hearing

(Continued from Page 5)

The hearing will look into whether the approval of the landfill expansion adequately addresses "the potential impacts of the expanded landfill on the groundwater and the local well," and whether Alberta Environment adequately considered "the potential impacts of the expanded landfill on surface water run-off and surrounding watersheds."

Dennis Bergheim, manager of Evergreen, says he hopes that the hearing will stick to those two questions, rather than straying to other issues or personal attacks.

Bergheim explained that Evergreen's engineering firm, Omni-McCann Consultants Ltd. will be

presenting its arguments to show that the site is safely operated.

Alberta Environment will also be presenting its case to defend its approval of the landfill expansion.

"We're looking forward to it, to getting the hearings concluded," Bergheim said, adding it would be good to be able to move on and continue with the day-to-day operations of Evergreen.

"I think everybody's looking for some resolution," added Shapka. The appeals process has been "financially, emotionally and personally" taxing on all those involved, and this hearing will offer the parties a chance to put their heads together and "come up with a positive solution," he said.

The hearing is public, so Bergheim noted people who have been following the issue could come and learn more.

"If anyone has any interest, it's probably a good time for them to go and hear all sides of it."

Following the hearing, the Environmental Appeals Board has 30 days to put together a report to confirm, reverse or change the Alberta Environment approval to address any important issues. The report will then be forwarded to Alberta's Environment Minister Rob Renner, who typically follows the advice of the board.

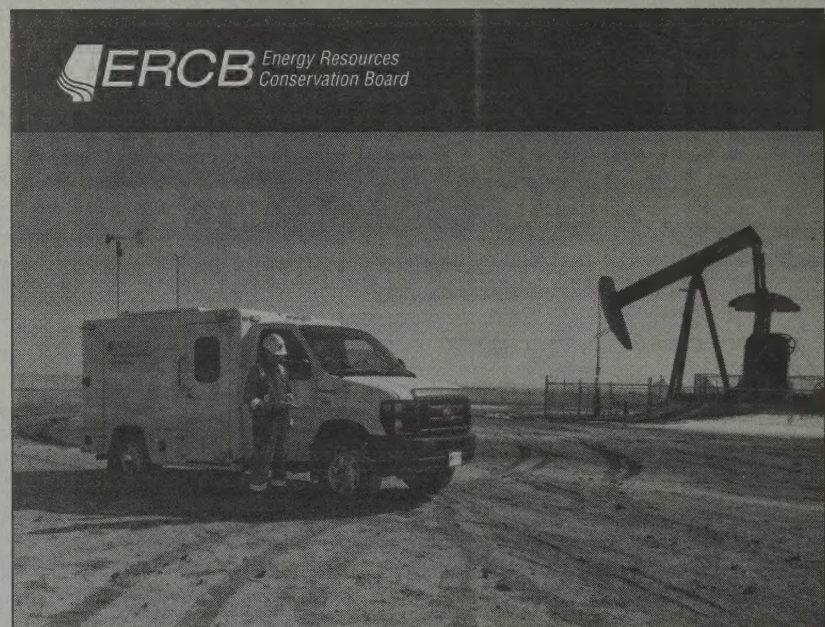
The appeals hearing, which will include presentations and cross-examinations of each of the parties' arguments, is slated to run from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 18 and again from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 19. It takes place at the Centennial Senior Citizens Opportunity Club, at 5114 49 Street in St. Paul.



Vicki Brooker photo

Basketball season hits the courts

It was back to school and straight into basketball season at F. G. Miller High School last week. Here, the Senior Boys Crusaders take on Mallaig on Wednesday evening. Games for both junior boys and junior girls had been scheduled for Thursday but were postponed.



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